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REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • SUMMER 1991

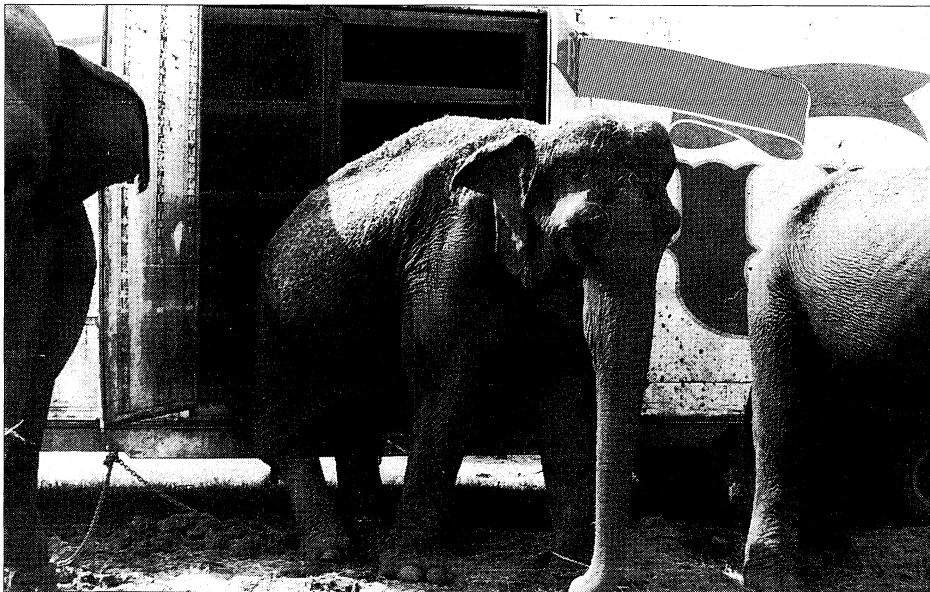
Innovative Ban Sought In British Columbia

In March WCRO Investigator Kurt Lapham traveled to Vancouver, B.C., to support the newly formed Vancouver Humane Society's efforts to introduce a city bylaw that would prohibit the use of wild animals in entertainment in city limits. During a press conference held to announce the proposed ban, Lapham was asked why such a measure was necessary. He responded, "If those attending a circus saw a dog come out with its tail between its legs, cowering because it was afraid it might be beaten by its trainer, then they would have a better understanding of the suffering circus animals endure." Lapham added, "Many of the circus people will tell you that the acts the animals perform are natural to those animals, yet I do not know

of any wild animals that willingly jump through rings of fire, stay in cages with their natural enemies, are chained, and perform day after day, year after year."

On the evening before the press conference and a protest at the site of a circus, the Vancouver Humane Society held a public meeting to discuss wild animals in captivity and in entertainment. Rob Laidlaw of Zoocheck, a Canadian organization, presented a slide show and spoke of the inadequacy of Canada's laws in providing means to enforce restrictions on the use of exotic animals in homes, zoos, roadside exhibits, and entertainment.

"The public is becoming aware that it is not the right of human beings to dominate
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Wild animals can suffer in circuses, homes, zoos, and roadside exhibits; a Vancouver bylaw recently proposed would prohibit the use of wild animals in entertainment.

INSIDE

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- Grisly Display in Paskenta
- Puppy-Mill Owners Face Charges
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Positive Change Comes To Oakland

A report on an evaluation of the Oakland (Calif.) City Animal Shelter conducted by Kurt Lapham in December 1990 has generated much media attention. The report, which was not made public until it was released by the city manager's office on March 20 of this year, disclosed what Lapham had described as serious concerns about the animal-control operation at the city-run facility.

HSUS evaluations are intended not to point fingers at individuals or agencies but rather to let them know where improvements are needed and recommend ways to achieve those improvements. Lapham's report resulted in the shelter staff's receiving training in euthanasia through a lecture and a practical applications course (other training is planned). It also resulted in the appointment of a task force by the city council. The task force will report to the council on the issues brought out in the report as well as the community's con-
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Injuries to rodeo animals such as this horse, covered with abrasions, cuts, and scars, should be reported to local animal-protection organizations.

WCRO Seeks Data on Rodeo Cruelty in the Region

Each year we learn of cases in which animals died or had to be destroyed because of injuries they received in rodeos. Often the injuries aren't blatant, and clever announcers lead spectators to believe that few animals get hurt or die. "People want to believe that an injured animal is going to be treated by a veterinarian, but that's not usually the case," WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach noted. "In fact, few jurisdictions even require the presence of a veterinarian at a rodeo. Injured animals often are returned to crowded, filthy holding corrals and used again and again in competition or practice."

The WCRO asks that anyone who sees animals being injured at rodeos or observes poor conditions for rodeo stock immediately contact a local humane society or animal-control agency. In addition, the WCRO would like to receive the following information, by mail: the location of the rodeo, the name of the sponsor, the name of the promoter, the nature of the injuries or conditions observed, the date they were observed, and the names of any agencies to which the injuries or conditions have already been reported. Armed with such data, we can continue our efforts to combat rodeo abuses.



Ingrid Pollack of the Vancouver Humane Society is interviewed about the ban.

Ban Sought

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every other species on the planet just because we are supposedly more intelligent," Lapham told the crowd at the public meeting. He congratulated the citizens of Vancouver on the interest and commitment they had shown in seeking the ban and said, "Now let's take it to other cities across Canada and the United States." Ingrid Pollack, who organized the press conference, the meeting, and other efforts of the Vancouver Humane Society, deserves the credit for having such innovative legislation introduced.

Grisly Display Criticized in Paskenta

Displaying about 60 dead coyotes by wiring them to fence posts along a rural county road on the outskirts of Paskenta, Calif., appears to have achieved an effect that is the opposite of the one desired by whoever committed the deed—"that is, unless the person responsible for the kills wanted to upset the residents of the small community and force them to endure the stench of the rotting carcasses," said Eric Sakach, who visited the location in April to investigate complaints. "Paskenta is a ranching community, so the fact that coyotes aren't well liked and can be legally killed isn't anything new," he said. In the past some trappers strung their kills on fence posts as a warning to other coyotes, a practice that only attracted more scavengers, including coyotes.

The display in Paskenta drew criticism from the public and even representatives of California's trappers' association. Although local media reported that the display did not violate any laws, Sakach notified authorities that placing carcasses next to a public road violated various sections of the penal and health and safety codes.



Dead coyotes wired to fencing make up a grisly display in Paskenta, Calif.

Elko County Puppy-Mill Owners Face Multiple Charges

Puppy mills are not exclusive to the Midwest; they can be found in almost every part of the country. After the recent discovery of a mass-breeding operation in a remote part of Elko County, Nev., authorities removed the remains of 30 dogs whose deaths were apparently due to a lack of adequate care and attention. Many of them had been exposed to the county's coldest winter in 46 years. Sixty-six live dogs and a number of other animals were also confiscated.

The WCRO contacted the Nevada Humane Society, which said that the live animals were safe and that it was discussing the case with the Elko district attorney and other county officials. The WCRO then contacted Pat Martinez, president of the Elko Animal Relief Foundation, which had removed the live animals from the property. Kurt Lapham informed the district attorney's office of the WCRO's interest in seeing the case fully prosecuted. The office told him that it had issued a governor's warrant for the arrest of one of the owners of the kennel.

The WCRO also sought help from the USDA, which had been involved in a Kansas case in which the same couple had been issued a cease-and-desist order prohibiting them from raising dogs for money. That order had expired.

Unfortunately, the Elko district attorney's office reduced the number of misdemeanor counts from 197 for each of the owners of the Nevada kennel to 16



Puppy mills can be found in the West as well as the Midwest.

counts for each of them. The reason for the reduction, according to the district attorney's office, was to make the case more manageable. In addition, the USDA has filed a notice of a violation under the Animal Welfare Act. The case has sparked the interest of the U.S. attorney's office in Las Vegas. In a rather unusual move, it has decided to take on the prosecution of the case. The U.S. attorney's office should be encouraged to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law and congratulated on being concerned enough to take the case on.

WCRO Staff Logs Productive Miles in the Northwest

HSUS staff members Char Drennon, Eric Sakach, and Kurt Lapham have consulted with many of the animal-related organizations in the Northwest in recent months. Drennon, who is pleased with the progress made, said, "All three of us have been visiting and working with local humane societies and other groups this spring. We try to be of help wherever we can. It also gives us an opportunity to meet and to thank our supporters, who often belong to

local groups."

On a recent trip to Oregon, Sakach visited two animal shelters and a wildlife-rehabilitation and education center; the Oregon Humane Society in Portland, the Multnomah County department of animal control in Troutdale, and Wildlife Images in Grants Pass. "The level of concern and degree of care for animals is apparent the moment you set foot in any of those facilities," he said.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

by Char Drennon

I have been haunted by a photograph of dead coyotes taken by Eric Sakach (see the article elsewhere in this issue). The image of so many carcasses stacked like cords of wood is something I would prefer not to have seen. It left me flooded with a wide range of emotions, thoughts, and questions. It was difficult to imagine the suffering of each of those members of a much-maligned species; I knew that they had probably died agonizing deaths. Their suffering is over, but it leaves me only too aware that the war against wildlife continues, with no signs of a letup in sight, and that since the beginning of the war the strategy has been mass destruction rather than selective control and better animal-husbandry practices.

Tens of thousands of coyotes, along with bobcats, mountain lions, black bears, and countless nontarget animals, are brutally killed each year under the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program. The ADC program is now administered by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), an agency of the USDA. Last year almost \$30 million was spent on the control of so-called varmints in what can be termed largely a waste of tax revenues. Because the dead coyotes that Sakach photographed weren't part of a federally subsidized slaughter, they won't be included in government statistics. Except for the manner in which they were discarded, it is unlikely that anything about their killing was illegal. Why that is the case is as puzzling to me as the sick individual who strung the carcasses on fence posts along a road leading into a small town and what he thought he was accomplishing by doing so.

Humane Officer Training

In March and April Eric Sakach taught courses at the California humane officers' basic and advanced academies. The training was hosted by the Marin Humane Society, accredited by the Northern California Criminal Justice Training and Education Center of Santa Rosa Junior College, and sponsored by the State Humane Association.

LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

Here are a few of the critical bills that we are watching closely.

■ **CALIFORNIA**—A.B. 110 calls for the adoption of alternatives to the Draize Acute Eye-Irritancy Test and skin-irritancy tests. Contact Gov. Pete Wilson right away and urge that he support this bill (SUPPORT).

A.B. 500 would set humane standards for transporting horses to slaughter. It would also prohibit the acceptance, purchase, or sale of a horse for slaughter if the horse is known to be diseased or in pain (SUPPORT).

A.B. 977 would allow the California Fish and Game Commission to authorize the sport hunting of Nelson bighorn sheep anywhere in the state. It is currently permitted only in certain parts of San Bernardino County (OPPOSE).

A.B. 1000 would add poultry to the list of animals that must be slaughtered humanely in commercial facilities under California's Humane Slaughter Act (SUPPORT).

A.B. 1740 would change the definition of "exotic livestock" in the California

Food and Agriculture Code to include ostriches. That would allow purchases of ostriches to be exempt from a sales tax (OPPOSE).

A.B. 1900 would require increased documentation on the transportation of horses as a means of detecting horse theft and preventing stolen horses from going to slaughter. The additional paperwork called for in the bill would make it easier to trace horses that had been stolen or obtained under false pretenses (SUPPORT).

A.B. 2165 would have the state's department of food and agriculture regulate shows at which birds that could be used for cockfighting were displayed. The bill would allow such birds' "gameness" to be assessed and prizes to be awarded and would make it clear that breeders could send their birds out of California for cockfighting. The bill would also set up a game-fowl research advisory committee (OPPOSE).

S.B. 15 would extend the law covering animals stolen for research or any commercial purpose to all animals, including those fraudulently obtained, such as through "free to good home" ads (SUPPORT).

S.B. 719 would require that veal calves at least be able to lie down, turn around, and move about comfortably in their primary enclosures (SUPPORT).

S.B. 1013 would prohibit the California Fish and Game Commission from giving out permits to operate alligator farms (SUPPORT).

S.B. 1020 would require that pet dealers disclose that registration does not guarantee the health, breeding conditions, or quality of a dog. They would have to include such a warning in advertisements and post signs to that effect (SUPPORT).

Please contact your state legislators and tell them your position on each of the bills. Letters to all legislators and Governor Wilson can be addressed as follows: The Honorable _____, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you have any questions or comments, contact the WCRO.

Reflect for a moment . . .

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you're gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist you in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Positive Changes

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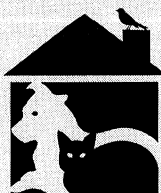
cerns about the city's animal-control program.

"As I stated in the beginning," Lapham said, "the purpose of my report was to open the lines of communication between the city, the [shelter] staff, and the citizens of Oakland—the ultimate goal being a new shelter, training for the staff, and increased community involvement with the shelter." It appears that many of those goals are in sight.

An evaluation performed by Lapham last November has also resulted in constructive changes. He has learned that the facilities he evaluated—kennels used by dog owners at a California veterans' home—are being improved through the provision of sewer systems, electrical power, and more-effective security and disease-control measures. Those are recommendations that Lapham made in his report to the veterans' home.

HSUS Animal Care Expo '92 Scheduled

Plan now to travel to Las Vegas, Nev., next February 2–5, 1992, to attend a one-of-a-kind expo for animal-sheltering, -care, and -control professionals. Sponsored by The HSUS, Animal Care Expo '92 will feature seminars, demonstrations, and the latest in practical, contemporary, and humane equipment and services. Special emphasis will be given to environmentally friendly and energy-efficient products and supplies. Contact the WCRO for more details.



**Animal Care
EXPO '92**